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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 31 | Min 14 | Humidity 34% Clear with periodic clouds Sensex 60,431 | Nifty 17,770 | Gold 56,657 | Silver 66,312 | Dollar 82.69 | Euro 88.30 | GBP 99.96

Cavalier behaviour of nurses at care home for mentally ill exposes sheer lack of care for underprivileged in healthcare ecosystem

THE SCAREWORKERS

'3 nurses hatched discreet pact with outsourcing agency'

| Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Manasa Kendra is a state government-run short-stay home for mentally ill persons situated on Old Madras Road. Nurses here are expected to work with dedication, passion, compassion and commitment as the inmates are not from affluent families. Underprivileged individuals with mental health issues come to the facility because their families cannot afford to look after them.

All these years, three nurses used to work in three shifts at Manasa Kendra till February 1. It is alleged that none of them were punctual in discharging their respective duties. Apparently, one of the nurses tasked to look after the inmates during the night shift used to exit from the short-stay home through the rear side gate of the building after dinner was served.

The government has installed a CCTV system to monitor the behaviour and movement of the inmates but it was damaged as soon as it was installed.

"I have the facility to monitor the CCTV footage on my mobile phone; but the CCTV was damaged

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

"I have advised the District Welfare Officer to visit Manasa Kendra and submit a report...

– Lathakumari, Director, Directorate for the Empowerment of Disabled and Senior Citizens

If you can't beat AI, why not join it?

What educationists think of overtly popular artificial intelligence chatbots, their effects on students and learning

| Saumyangi Yadav
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

With artificial Intelligence platforms like ChatGPT taking the world by storm, educational institutes have a new challenge. Some higher education facilities in Bengaluru have even put restrictions on such platforms.

However, schools in Bengaluru share a different point of view about this new concept. Many schools said banning the use of AI platforms is not an option; on the other hand, they are focusing on how the platform can be used constructively.

"Like Google Translate, Grammarly, and other programmes that enhance one's writing capabilities, ChatGPT is also an evolution of them. So, banning it outright won't do anything in terms of the ability of students to use them surreptitiously and they beat plagiarism software like turnitin.com. Rather than ban them and turn to use underground, we are looking at how we can utilise ChatGPT as a tool to support and enhance writing including discussions that revolve around the ever-present need for authenticity and the need to not plagiarise other people's work," explained Dr Ted Mockrish, head of school, Canadian International School.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Notes to remember

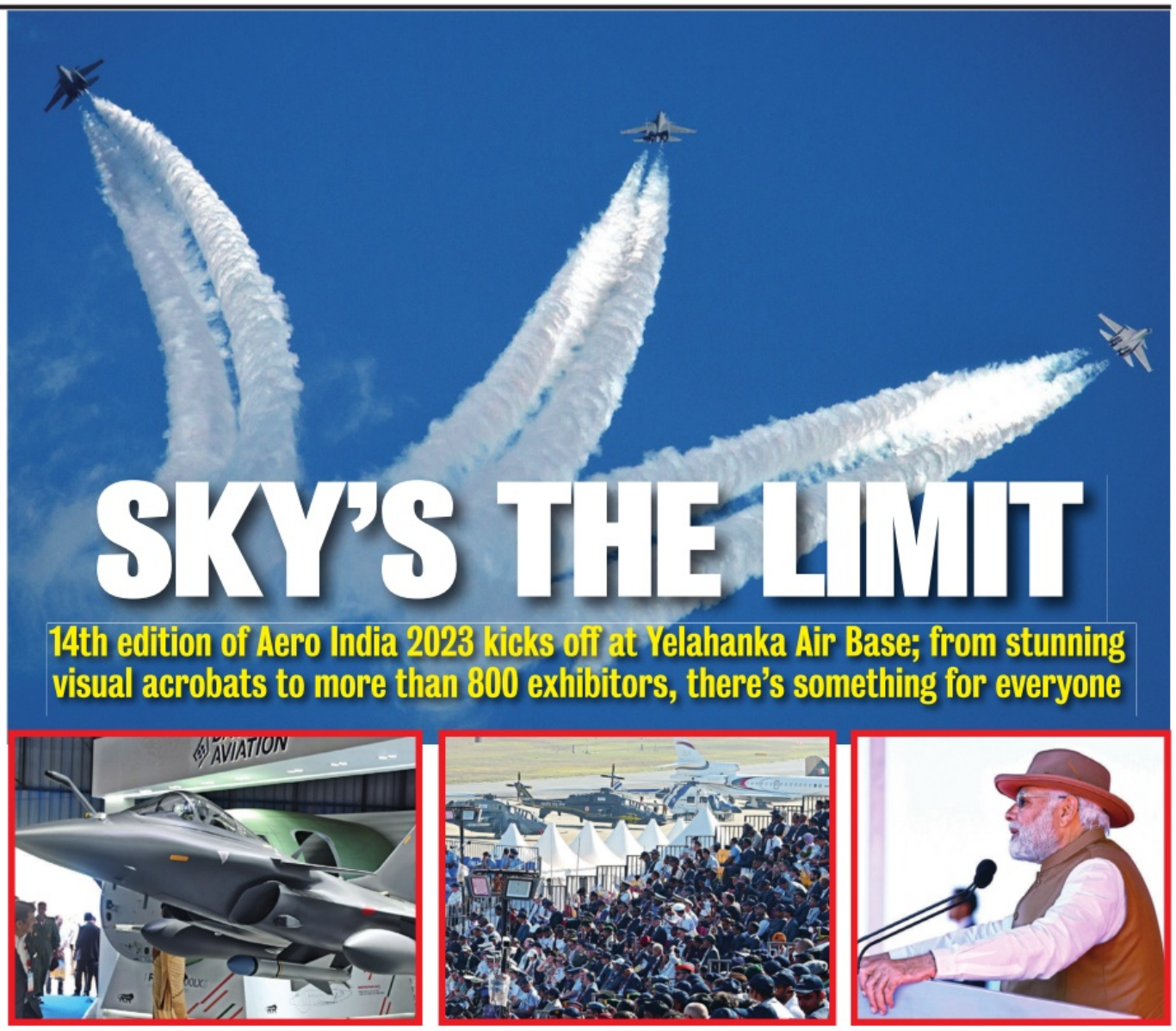
Experimental Neo Soul group and profound musicians, Beer Puppets, turn interesting soundscapes into compositional ideas for genre-defying music.
Founder & Bass Player, Avishek Dey, collaborates with artistes across the globe including Vocalist, Shreya Bhattacharyya, who experiments with multiple sounds. Guitarist/singer, Amandeep Singh Soni, plays various genres of music, while jazz pianist, Rahul Wadhwani, has performed with some of the finest musicians. Pranoy Praveen is known for his organic approach to drums.
Where: Windmills, Whitefield
When: Feb 17, 18, 9:30pm onwards

02 East meets west

Catch a special collaboration between Smadj, a French music of Tunisian origin playing the oud with Dr Jyotsna Srikanth, South Indian violinist and composer. The two musicians have come up with a mix of Oriental music with contemporary Indian music with electronics and powerful beats. They will be accompanied by Gurumurthy Vaidya on tabla.
Where: Alliance Française, Vasanth Nagar
When: Feb 17, 7:00 pm

03 A fine balance

The Whitefield Art Collective is a month-long, not-for-profit, public art festival supported by the Yuj Arts Foundation that would be hosted in VR Bengaluru. The theme for this time's art festival is " A Fine Balance" which will explore the delicate relationship between human beings and their environment, with a special focus on climate change and sustainability.
Where: VR Bengaluru, Whitefield Main Road
When: Feb 18, 6pm
Contact: 9900467399.



SKY'S THE LIMIT

14th edition of Aero India 2023 kicks off at Yelahanka Air Base; from stunning visual acrobats to more than 800 exhibitors, there's something for everyone

Indian Air Force Sukhoi Su-30MKI fighter planes perform stunts; Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the audience; the crowd has their eyes on the sky; visitors check out various models and machines at the event

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Inaugurating the 14th edition of Aero India at Yelahanka Air Base on Monday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that Aero India 2023 was a shining example of India's growing capabilities.

"Around 100 nations participating at this event shows the trust that the entire world shows in India. There is participation of more than 800 exhibitors including Indian MSMEs and startups along with well-renowned companies of the world," said the PM, adding that Karnataka was the hub of India's technological advancement.

He said that this will open new avenues for the youth of Karnataka in the aviation sector. The Prime Minister called upon the youth of Karnataka to deploy their technological expertise in the field of defence to strengthen the country.

A rich history of aviation

Chief Minister Basavaraj S Bommai said that during the pandemic, while the air show in Paris was paused, it was held on a grand scale in Bengaluru. This time, the area and the number of exhibitors is more.
The CM said the HAL was established in Karnataka in 1940, BHEL, BEL, and DRDO in 1950, and ISRO in 1960.

The country's first satellite, Aryabhata was first manufactured in Bengaluru and since then they have not turned back. Now the state has been at the forefront of the aerospace and defence sector. Nearly, 65 per cent of the requirements in the defence sector are manufactured in Bengaluru.

For the first time the F-35A Lightning II and F-35A Joint Strike Fighter came all the way from the US Air Force's bases in Alaska and Utah

The Aerospace and Defence Policy has been in force in the State, and over 45,000 youths are into the development of the defence and aerospace industry.

Guests from the US

The US Air Force's (USAF) two newest fifth-generation supersonic multirole F-35A aircraft made a historic debut at Aero-India. The two jets -- F-35A Lightning II and F-35A Joint Strike Fighter -- arrived at the Yelahanka Air Force station on the outskirts of Bengaluru after their respective journey from Utah and Alaska air force bases in the US.

Two Indian military officials said it was for the first time that F-35 aircraft of the US Air Force landed in India. In addition to the two F-35s, an F-16 fighting Falcon duo from the US Air Force will conduct daily aerial demonstrations to showcase the capability of one of the force's leading fighter jets. The F/A-18E and F/A-18F Super Hornet, the US Navy's most advanced frontline carrier-based multirole strike fighter aircraft are also part of the exhibits from the US.

Opposition takes potshots

Aero India has led to a war of words between the Congress and the BJP.
Congress leader Jairam Ramesh tweeted, "The man in fancy dress claims credit for Aero India, the show held in Bengaluru. The truth is it started way back in 1996 and gained in strength over the years. It's held in Bengaluru simply because of the presence of organisations there tracing their origins to the Nehruvian era."

Former Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy wondered, "Is the Air Show a programme to remove poverty? Will poverty be ended by participating in the Aero India Show? The attempt is being made to misguide people at the time of elections."

'Snake Show'

As the aircrafts circled the skies, hundreds of people gathered in the nearby areas to take a glimpse. For some of the people who were witnessing the flights on a nearby lake, there was a shocker as they were too close to a snake. As soon as people noticed the snake, there was panic for a while and people started running helter skelter. Then, a local resident scared away the snake and the crowd continued to scan the skies.

Traffic woes

It was 'Monday blues' for those travelling on the airport road via Mehkri Circle in the city as huge traffic jams were witnessed due to several restrictions. Even the main flyover was barred for traffic except for the Aero India show and as a result, the service roads witnessed heavy traffic jams.

Special Commissioner (Traffic) MA Saleem said, "Around 1,400 traffic police personnel have been deployed and a lot of diversions have been made. We have banned heavy and medium goods vehicles so that we can reduce the traffic on the city roads during peak hours. We had to take these measures as many vehicles were heading to Yelahanka air base."

Warning: Don't fall for the dubious parcel trick

If you get calls from 'officials' asking for bank details, accusing you of sending packages with illegal items or claiming you can transfer money to clear your name — just hang up

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Rachel* a finance professional received a call from an unknown number one morning. After several agonising hours filled with threats and false allegations, she ended up losing Rs 1.48 lakh to those who had called her. On the other end of the call were fraudsters posing as Police and CBI officials, telling her that she was part of a money laundering scam. This is the modus operandi of the scam: People claiming to be from a paracel service call the targeted victim, stating that the parcel for them has not passed customs. They ask the victim to press '0' for more details.

Which is what Rachel did as she had not sent any parcel. "A person on the call told me the parcel contained five passports, credit cards, and 600 gm weed. I was told that I am being redirected to the Mumbai Police. Then from 11:30 am-2:30 pm, I was not allowed to disconnect or mute the call," she said.

She was threatened when she decided to not cooperate. "A person, Smita Patil, shared her police ID and asked me to share my Aadhaar details as they wanted to check the illegal activities. I was told I was the main suspect. They said they would get me arrested if I did not cooperate," she said.

> **"Sometimes they employ a diversionary tactic by calling and pretending to be from the legal team of the entity. During this period, money siphoned off is redistributed to multiple accounts**

During the call, the victim was given an acknowledgement letter from the financial department to transfer Rs 98,132. As per the document, the victim was involved in a money laundering case and to verify this, the person has to transfer the money so that the RBI can detect and analyse the legality of the account. Another 'Consent to Terms of Confidentiality Agreement' issued by CBI was shared with the victim.

The victim was then transferred to the internal finance department. "They claimed I was receiving money from a criminal named Jerold who has been accused in a money laundering scam. I repeatedly tried to decline sending any money," added Rachel. She was asked to share her bank details, investments in stocks, FDs, RDs, etc.

Then a person who called himself Balsingh Rajput informed her that their internal software had discovered that she was innocent. "But, they wanted me to transfer the amount from UPI. The first transaction was made through UPI for Rs 98,132 and another Rs 50,000 from another account. They told me they wanted to test at least two accounts. I was told that the money would be returned in 15-20 minutes."

It was only after she realised the con that she complained to the cybercrime department at 4 pm. She checked with the parcel company using the employee ID shared with her and realised that was fake. The scamsters had gone offline by then.

An FIR was filed at the DCP East division on February 2. DCP East, Bhimashakar Guled said, "Our priority was to freeze the accounts. This is not the first case in Bengaluru."

Joint Commissioner of Police, Sharanappa told BM that cybercrime using big names is not new but with data about police officials available online it has become easier to get details. "In most cases, cybercriminals won't be able to operate without your participation. Details shared are misused later and might not be used for an entire year. Once the money is siphoned off, they are not interested. The best measure is to never give in to the demands of criminals."

Cyber security experts note that weeks or months before a person is targeted, malware is installed. Dr Uday Shankar Puranik, a noted cyber security expert, told BM, "The malware can access everything on the phone. While using UPI or wallet, the malware will capture the credentials to the Command-and-Control Centre of the criminals. The information is further sold to other criminals who might misuse the data later. On the day of the incident, it would seem like somebody is trying to get information from you but they often have all the information."

Puranik said the key is to initiate action within the next hour. "Sometimes they employ a diversionary tactic by calling and pretending to be from the legal team of the entity. During this period, money siphoned off is redistributed to multiple accounts," he added.

Bike-canter collision: Woman rider crushed

A woman died after the two-wheeler she was riding was knocked down by a speeding canter on Kasturba Road on Monday morning. The victim has been identified as Sudha 37, a resident of Bharati Nagar.

Sudha had gone on the two-wheeler to drop off her daughter, who is studying second PUC in a private college. While returning home after dropping her daughter, a speeding vehicle rammed into her scooter. As a result, Sudha fell on the road and the canter ran over her. The police said that Sudha was seriously injured and died. In connection with the accident, Cubbon Park police seized the vehicle and arrested the driver, Allah Baksh, 51. Preliminary investigation revealed that the driver was careless and speeding.

Teacher stabbed to death

A private school teacher was stabbed to death in broad daylight near Nanjappa Circle on Monday. The victim has been identified as Kausar Mubin, 34.

The Cubbon Park police station, which has registered a case, suspects that her ex-husband, Wasim Pasha, is behind the crime.

Kausar and Wasim Pasha were divorced and lived separately a year and a half ago. Kausar was living with her 14-year-old daughter in a house near Nanjappa Circle. Kausar, who did not go to school on Monday, was alone at home. Around three in the afternoon, an assailant came to the house, stabbed her three times with a knife and fled. Neighbours who came over after hearing screams, found Kausar's body lying in a pool of blood.

Forensic experts visited the house and collected evidence. According to the police, nothing was stolen from the house. A senior official said acquaintances are suspected to have been involved in the murder.

"The ex-husband would come to the house and fight with Kausar. Kausar's relatives have expressed suspicion that he is the murderer," the officer said.

Goons vandalise eatery, threaten & rob workers

Rowdy sheeters vandalising shops in the city has become common in the recent months. The latest incident was reported on the intervening night of February 12 and 13, when an eatery was trashed by a gang. Around 30 people barged into the SLV Bhavan on Avenue Road with a hammer rod and vandalised it.

They were all wearing masks and monkey caps. They threatened the seven hotel workers with knives and snatched their mobile phones.

The act took place between 1 and 2 am. According to the sources, there was a quarrel over ownership of the place, and because of that the rowdies destroyed the place. According to the sources, the destruction caused the eatery a loss of Rs 10 lakh.

The Bruhat Bangalore Hotel Association has also spoken up about the act of vandalism.

They alleged that the miscreants entered the hotel with handguns and smashed windows, tables, chairs and other items.

The president of the association has also expressed concern that the dealings of criminals in hotels are increasing in the city recently. R Ravichander, President PC Rao, Vice President HS Subrahmanya Holla and office-bearers of the association have written to City Police Commissioner CH Pratap Reddy.

He has requested that such vandalism be curbed and attention be paid to the safety of the hoteliers. Based on the complaint filed by SSLV Hotel owner Padmanabha Kedilaya, the Halasurugate police registered a case.

Chain-snatchers held

The Kengeri police have arrested two men, accused of targeting women to rob them. The accused have been identified as Chandu and Raghu from Mysuru. The police have seized gold chains worth Rs 6 lakh from the accused. "The accused used to target women who go on morning walks. They used to come on a bike and escape after snatching chains," said a police official.

The accused had recently committed the crime in the Kengeri police station limits and escaped after stealing a chain from a 71-year-old woman named Adilakshmi. A case was registered at the Kengeri police station.

– Ahna Prakash

All problems, 1 solution: Boost public transport

Demand for Budget — More buses to solve traffic woes in environment-friendly manner

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The step will ensure affordable public transport service for various vulnerable sections of city population

Representatives of Bengaluru Bus Prayanikara Vedike (BBPV) in association with a handful of other groups, representing various communities put forth their demands about public transport in the city at a press conference organised on Monday.

The participants voiced that the only real solution to congestion, pollution, emissions and tree-cutting is a robust public transport system, which should be expanded in the city urgently.

Slum Mahila Sanghatane, BBPV, Naveddu Nilladiddare, Jhatkaa.org, Slum Janara Sanghatane and All India Students Association (AISA) participated in the conference to put forward their demands.

The groups have been conducting campaigns to demand that sufficient allocation is made to Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) in this year's state budget. Representatives of these groups say that the step will not only ensure improved connectivity but also affordable public transport service for vulnerable communities.

"We have three main demands for which we are pushing for budget allocation. Through the budget, travel through BMTC can be made free for various vulnerable sections of the city population such as women, the transgender community, senior citizens and students. The extra budget will also help BMTC lift the ongoing hiring freeze and allow the corporation to hire 1,000 additional staff on its rolls," said Vinay Sreenivasa, a member of BBPV.

The gathering also demanded the expansion of the BMTC fleet by 3,000 more buses in addition to any existing procurement plans to improve the accessibility of public transport.

> **"Improving BMTC's fleet size and frequency will bring down not only congestion but also issues such as pollution, accidents, loss of greenery and fuel consumption** –a group member

"The accessibility of buses is starting to matter all the more after the National Education Policy (NEP) has been brought in. After the NEP rolled out, a lot of colleges have started multiple shifts; the low frequency of buses at night is becoming difficult to manage. The present situation of BMTC, with very little accessibility, is worrisome," said Sujodipto, a representative of AISA.

Representatives also spoke about the lack of adequate connectivity of BMTC buses and growing traffic congestion. They opined that there is an urgent need to expand BMTC services and increase the frequency of buses in many parts of the city.

They pointed to the unsustainable solution of private transport and said there is a real need to increase the BMTC fleet from 6,500 to 15,600 for its population size if public transport has to meet the travel needs of the city.

"As traffic congestion grows, the government keeps implementing the patchwork of flyovers, road widening and elevated corridors in different parts of the city, even when it does not solve congestion. Improving BMTC's fleet size and frequency, on the other hand, will bring down not only congestion but also issues such as pollution, fuel consumption, accidents, and loss of greenery," said another group member.

Rajakaluve nightmare at people's doorsteps

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The residents of Sri Sai Layout have been facing unending problems because of a rajakaluve being built right in front of their houses. They say that they are stuck inside their house because there is no space to step outside.

With the drainage built right in front of their houses, they are forced to stay inside, and despite having a vast land just beside the area, the authorities have dug up the residential area.

"The vast land is completely empty, just 50 feet away and is lower than this place but still they did not dig that area. Now the problem is I cannot go to work and our daily lives are being affected. Even my building has started cracking. We have been living here for the last 33 years," said Sathish Pillai, a resident of the area.

The residents were not provided with CDC or Kaveri water and they now have to depend on water tankers for receiving their drinking water.

A dug-up drain that is 3-metre long is right outside houses in Sri Sai Layout

Smitha K, another resident, told Bangalore Mirror that she was trying to sell her house. However, because of the construction the value of her property fell.

"The drain is a big one; it is a wall to wall drain. Because of this, the value of my property has also fallen by approximately 50 per cent. There is so much space left on the other side but still they have taken this side for digging up," she said.

Other residents added that the drainage water enters their houses. Also they were not given any prior notice before the work started.

"The drainage water is coming inside and it is causing a lot of havoc. We are literally stuck inside our house and it is turning into a huge problem for all of us who are staying here," said Tarun Kumar, another resident.

"We have no corporator for our area nor did we have any government representatives to inform us or provide alternate remedies for our basic necessities such as water and a temporary way to commute," said Sunny David, another resident.

Meanwhile, an official from Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), said, "There are only three houses that are being obstructed. We are doing the 3 metre nala, but we need another 2 feet for the shuttering and centering. That is why we have dug up a full road and we will finish it off within 2 to 3 weeks."

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Unhealthy mix
TC Palya

Outside New Baldwin School at Maragondanahalli Road in TC Palya, sewage and garbage are lying unattended for many days.

Footpath riders
Banashankari

Traffic police are ignoring reckless riders who occupy even footpaths, adjacent to Kamakya Theatre, Banashankari 3rd Stage.

Barrier on path
Bannerghatta Road

Footpaths on both sides of Bannerghatta Road between Meenakshi Mall and Christ College and beyond, are blocked with granite blocks meant for covering gutters that have been left around.

Love that's growing in full bloom

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Rose exports from Bengaluru have gone up by 20 per cent, due to all covid restrictions being removed, and farmers and vendors are happy.

In 2022, 515 tonnes of roses and 273 tonnes were exported via Kempegowda International Airport in 2021.

According to representatives of the International Flower Auction Centre, "We are seeing a great demand for roses not just from the international market but also from the domestic market as well. Hence, we have seen a 20 per cent rise in rose exports for V-Day in 2023."

Karnataka is known for growing a variety of rose flowers including Taj Mahal, Samurai, Goldstrike, Yellow hotshot, Jumalia, Soura and Rockstar etc. Roses are grown in Bengaluru Urban, Rural, Kolar, Ramnagar, Chikkaballapur districts. Farmers say that the lands around Bengaluru are favourable for rose cultivation.

However, due to drop in demand in the Covid years, many had shifted to other crops. However, as the Covid cases started easing, many farmers are back to rose cultivation. Roses from Bengaluru are exported to London, Singapore, Dubai, Kuwait, Amsterdam, Manila and Muscat etc. The roses are sent to domestic markets like Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Guwahati and Chandigarh etc.

"These days, we are seeing an increase in demand for roses across the year. Many of the farmers are growing flowers in such a way that maximum produce can be available during Valentine's Day. However, there is a fear that if the supply overshoots demand, then there is a fear of fall in prices as well."

There has been a 20 per cent rise in rose exports for Valentine's Day in 2023

— A representative of International Flower Auction Centre

Even in the local market, the flower prices are going up. In the wholesale market, a bunch of rose flowers (12 flowers in a bunch) was being sold for Rs 370 to Rs 400. The rose prices are likely to go up on Valentine's Day as well.

Another farmer added that in 2021, the Government announced Rs 25,000 monetary relief to the flower growers who suffered from Covid-19. But the relief was given to only a limited number of farmers among the 6,000 flower farmers in the state. The flower farmers also requested for waiver of electricity charges, but the Government did not respond. Farmers from the last two years are already in a severe loss. Around 30 per cent of the farmers gave up midway. Now, thankfully, we are getting good demand."

Sliver of hope and help, from Bengaluru to Turkey

Two Good Samaritans pitch in to collect relief items for Turkey

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As Turkey and Syria continue to grapple with life in the aftermath of the earthquakes, help has been pouring in from all over the world. Bengaluru has also pitched in to help, and two Good Samaritans have initiated a collection drive to collect relief materials and send it to the Turkish Embassy in New Delhi.

Collapsed buildings in Adiyaman, Turkey; (inset) relief goods collected so far

The Turkish Embassy in New Delhi had tweeted urgent requirements of relief materials like winter tent, sleeping bags, boots, coat, glove, socking, raincoat, blanket, diapers, bed, pillow, beanie scarf and other materials like sanitary napkins, diapers, baby food, dry food and meal box. The priority list included winger tents, sleeping bags, gas heaters and power generators.

Upon seeing the tweet, Mohammed Ibrahim Akram, one of the trustees of Beyond Boundaries, decided to come forward and initiate a collection drive for relief materials.

"When the incident at Turkey happened, I was thinking how and what could we do to help the people there. And just in a few days, the Turkish embassy called out for relief materials. My friend Nasir Masood and I immediately decided to start the collection drive and put up posts on social media, after which many people were willing to come forward and donate."

Ibrahim was also actively involved throughout the covid-19 pandemic, in helping many migrants by giving them food packages, arranging beds for covid positive patients and even volunteered to carrying out door to door testing.

Nasir Masood, a businessman, decided to have his office space as a collection point. "People can leave of their donations at my office in Chaman business centre in Cunningham Road. Until Thursday we will collect the items and send it on Friday. So far, we have got an overwhelming response from the people. The main focus is to collect blankets and beds as there is plenty of food materials available. We are also ensuring nothing is old, and everything is good to use and eat. For those who can't donate and still want to contribute they can even send funds on the bank account. We have received over Rs 1.5 lakh which we will use to buy relief materials."

As the demand for donations increased, Beyond Boundaries tied up with Project Smile to have five different collection points at their Smile Seva Kendras on Makkah Masjid Road at Bommanhalli, Mysore Road, Gangogondanahalli, Stage 2 Chandra Layout, JP Nagar 9th Phase, Jolly Mohala in Sultanpete and Bhoopsandra at Hebbal.

"We decided to extend our reach to make it more accessible for the people. For people who wants to donate from Jayanagar or BTM layout, it would be difficult for them to drop off in Cunningham Road. Now they can do it in their nearest collection point. We are also open to door-to-door pick up if needed," added Ibrahim.

Another initiative is carried out by Minoti Ramachandra, who runs the Motley Dance Company in Bengaluru to carry out collection of relief materials at the La-Fro night on February 15 in 1522 Pub.

"The main focus is to collect blankets and beds as there is plenty of food materials available

— Naseer Masood, a businessman

"My partner Kalpana Balakrishnan and I decided to help beyond boundaries. Every Wednesday, we conduct La-Fro night at 1522 Pub in Koramangala. Here the entry fees collected will be contributed towards the relief materials. We will also put up a donation box, talk to people and raise awareness on this drive. People can come and donate their materials, after which we will pack in and give the box to the Beyond Boundaries team," said Minoti.

IN BRIEF

Meeting to mull traffic fine extension

The Bengaluru Traffic Police have submitted a report to the State Legal Services Authority on fine collection after the end of 50 per cent exemption on payment of outstanding fines for traffic violation cases.

The traffic police had collected a total of 120.76 crore fines from 41.20 lakh cases for nine days from February 3 to 11. The traffic police have prepared a report in this regard.

State Legal Services Authority Chairman B Veerappa has called a meeting of Transport Department officials and City Traffic Police officials on February 14. In this meeting, there may a possibility that there will be a discussion on the extension of discount on fines because many people had requested for more time to pay the outstanding fine.

9 arrested in casteist remarks row

Nine persons were arrested for allegedly disrespecting Dr BR Ambedkar and Dalits at a play presented at Jain University.

Among them were seven students and Dinesh Nilkant, the principal of the Centre for Management Studies (CMS) at Jain University.

"Siddapura police have arrested the students, the principal, and the programme organiser," said P Krishnakant, Deputy Commissioner of Police, South.

The college had earlier suspended the students after an internal investigation.

According to Sections 3(1)(r), 3(1)(s), and 3(1)(v) of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and Sections 153A, 149, and 295A of the Indian Penal Code, the principal and dean of the college, the accused students, the programme organiser, the skit writer, and others were all arrested by Siddapura police.

—BMB

WPL: Pricey Mandhana for RCB

India vice-captain Smriti Mandhana bagged a huge deal of INR 3.4 crore with the Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) in the first set of Womens Premier League (WPL) Player Auction here on Monday.

From a base price of INR 50 lakh, RCB and Mumbai Indians (MI) were locked in an intense battle for Smriti's services, before the former managed to acquire her services, offering an opening as well as a captaincy option. Interestingly, she wears the number 18 jersey, which is the same number which Virat Kohli wears for RCB in the men's Indian Premier League (IPL).

Mumbai were then in a tussle alongside RCB, Delhi Capitals (DC) and UP Warriorz to get the services of captain Harmanpreet Kaur, which ended in them roping her in for INR 1.8 crore. New Zealand captain Sophie Devine was sold to RCB at the base price of INR 50 lakh. Australia's off-spin all-rounder Ashleigh Gardner was being contested by MI and Warriorz, but Gujarat Giants got her in for INR 3.2 crore. RCB and DC were in contention to get premier Australia pace all-rounder Ellyse Perry, with the former taking her in for INR 1.7 crore.

Gujarat and Delhi both wanted England's left-arm spinner Sophie Ecclestone, but Warriorz got her for INR 1.8 crore. From the first set, only West Indies captain Hayley Matthews was unsold. "Everyone knows Mandhana and Perry, we were pretty committed to the couple of people we wanted to get. we're very happy to get such quality players. It's a dream result for us to get Mandhana, Perry and Devine," said Mike Hesson, Director of Cricket, RCB, in the press conference. **IANS**

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I, ANJLINA RAVINDRAN KANDIRTHLIY W/o K.P Ravindran, Surname: KANDIRTHLIY DOB 26/10/1975 residing at No.02, Angel Apartment, 11th Main, Opp. 22nd Cross, Near Ganesh Temple, Raghavendra Layout, K.G Halli, Shettihali, Jalahalli West, Bengaluru-560015 have changed my name to K R ANJLEENA (Surname : KANIDRTHIL RAVINDRAN) and my correct DOB: 03.05.1972 vide affidavit dated 17.01.2023 sworn before notary I, Kanikha Raja, B.lore.

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I, Buben Banerjee , D/o Bhabes Kanti Banerjee R/o Bhuvana Nivath Apt, Harohalli Main Road , Ajjagondanahalli Village , Bengaluru ,560087, have Changed My Name To Buben Banerjee Sharma for all future purposes.

I, ASMATHULLA, R/a,#.25,Shadab Nagar Main Road, Kavalbyrasandra, Bangalore–32. I, have changed my name to ASMATHULLA SANAULLA, Vide affidavit dated 13/02/2023 Sworn before Notary M.Rajendra, Bangalore

I Narayana Shrouthy Mysore Shaktidhar S/O, Shaktidhar Shrouthy R/o Villa 20, Concorde Napa Valley, Kanakpura Road, Tharalu Village, Bangalore 560082 have changed my name to Narayan Shrouthy for all purposes.

I Sripriya Vishnu Chakkaravarthy W/o Vishnu R Chakkaravarthy R/o K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore-560048 have changed my name to Srirpiya Ramaswamy for all purposes.

I Nandini D/O, Bharmeshwar Dass Gupta R/o 518, B3, Ganga Block, National Games Village, Koramangala, Bengalore have changed my name to Nandini Gupta for all purposes.

I Joel Joly Manavalan R/o No 9/5/5 1st floor St Mary Nagar St Mary Church Mangammapalya Bommanahalli Bengaluru 560068, Have changed my name to Joel Joly for all purposes.

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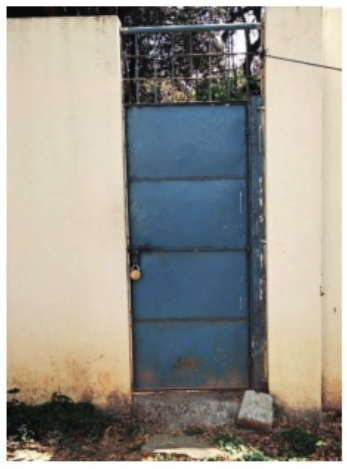
REMEMBRANCE

SHAKUNTALA V BHAT

Date of Death - 14-02-2008

"Remembering you always.."
From: Ashok, Preethi, Amrhutha, Axatha & Abhay.

Uncaring care workers of the Manasa Kendra



A gate that is allegedly illegal

Damaged CCTV equipment

Unhygienic conditions

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

by the nurses to make it easy for them to go home any time at night. When I tried to contact the nurse on landline, the security guard or one of the inmates attended the phone calls. I was told that the nurse left for home without attending to scheduled duty till morning," said Manasa Kendra superintendent (in-charge) Ravi B.

According to a reliable source, the three nurses have been working at the facility for more than 10 years after devising a discreet pact with the outsourcing agency authorised to supply manpower to the Manasa Kendra. It is alleged that two of the nurses resided at two residential quarters owned by Tuberculosis Hospital, they drew electricity from Manasa Kendra and even laid a separate water pipeline to draw water from the borewell meant for the inmates of the Kendra.

"I objected to drawing electricity from Manasa Kendra to the residential quarters situated at Tuberculosis Hospital premises. One of the engineers visiting Manasa Kendra also objected to drawing electricity and said it is an offence," said Ravi.

Though the inside of the building is neat and clean, the open area, especially the place where inmates wash their clothes, is not in good condition. There is no provision to drain out stagnant water. It is said the hospital superintendent wrote a letter to the PWD engineer to take up developmental works but in vain.

When informed, PWD assistant engineer Girish said he would look into the matter. "We are preparing an estimate on the cost of developmental works. We will take up the developmental works shortly," said Girish.

There was a proposal to install biometric equipment for the nurses & employees working at Manasa Kendra but one of the nurses allegedly threatened to ensure the equipment was rendered defunct.

Meanwhile, Lathakumari, director, Directorate for the Empowerment of Disabled and Senior Citizens, said she was aware of the three nurses known for their irresponsible behaviour.

"I have advised the District Welfare Officer to visit Manasa Kendra and submit a report. I am yet to receive the report. I will take measures to appoint a nurse for Manasa Kendra for the welfare of inmates. We need nurses who have compassion, passion, dedication and commitment," said Lathakumari.

'How to utilise AI chatbots'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"This is inevitable. So, rather than fight or ban something, we have to look at how we can enhance this. There were similar calls when the printing press or copy machines were invented. One of my favourite books relevant to this is Bartaby the Scrivener, where someone who would copy manuscripts was out of a job because of the industrial revolution. There are copywriters and bots and things all over the world and we just need to figure out what it means to be human and that's what we have to get at in terms of expression of writing," Mockrish added.

However, to curb plagiarism using these programmes, schools have started to modify homework and assignments to make them more engaging and creative for the students.

"To avoid any such incidents, we try to give homework that includes more critical thinking for the students. For example, subjects like science and maths have a fixed theory but the teachers try to relate it to real-life problems in order to encourage critical thinking and value-based learning... Moreover, we also try to give handwritten homework only as otherwise they can just copy and print the assignment. Writing is an extension of the body and would encourage active involvement," said Father Sunil Fernandes, principal, St Joseph Boys' High School.

The schools added that the use of ChatGPT and other AI chatbots, is more common among the students of senior secondary classes so far, who are more familiar with the technology.

"Like Google Translate, Grammarly, and other programmes that enhance one's writing capabilities, ChatGPT is also an evolution of them. So, banning it outright won't do anything

"The important task is to make the students aware of the platforms and tell them how they can be used constructively. It can be a boon or a bane, and like any other new invention it has pros and cons... We have to encourage the students to think out of the box, and nurture decision-making and problem-solving skills. Though, it might take some time. Our education system is such that so far, the focus has been on rote learning. But for the past few years, the situation has been changing," he added further.

On the other hand, though most schools are trying to work around these platforms, some have still restricted their use.

"We don't encourage such tools in our school; everybody should understand the ill-effects of using them as it hampers real learning. Such tools are forbidden across all our networks due to their negative impact on students, the authenticity and accuracy of content," said Aloysius D'Mello, principal, Greenwood High International School.

Law-abiding buses of B'luru?

KSRTC and BMTC show decline in traffic violations over past three months

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BMTC has shown a 60.02 per cent decline in traffic violations from November 2022

Data by Bangalore Traffic Police has shown that public bus transport might be getting safer with KSRTC and BMTC showing a declining trend in traffic violations.

Signal jumps and wrong parking constitute most of the shares of traffic violations for BMTC. From November 2022 to January 2023, KSRTC recorded zero violations. On the other hand, BMTC has also shown a decline in traffic violations over the past three months. BMTC has shown a 60.02 per cent decline in traffic violations from the month of November and a 70.29 per cent decline in signal jumps and a 53.98 per cent decline in wrong parking.

BMTC saw 3,960 cases being registered in November 2022 out of which 2,020 were for jumping traffic signals, 1,693 for wrong parking, 128 cases of parking at interactions, 79 cases of wrong entry, and 26 cases of defective registration number plate. In December 2022, in total, 2,702 cases were registered, Out of those, 1,283 cases were of wrong parking, 1,182 cases were of jumping traffic signals, 174 cases were of parking at intersections, 32 cases were of defective number plates, and 21 cases were of no entry.

In contrast, this year BMTC saw only 1,583 cases with wrong parking taking the major share.779 cases were registered for wrong parking followed by 600 cases of jumping traffic signals,157 cases of parking at intersections, 27 cases of defective registered number plates and 11 cases of no entry.

> **It's a surprising impact for KSRTC. We have been advising the crew to treat riders on road like family**
> –Anbu Kumar, KSRTC MD

KSRTC MD Anbu Kumar said, "It's a surprising impact for KSRTC. We have been advising the crew to treat passengers and traffic on the road like family. Every morning at 6 am, the depot managers should be present at the depot and before taking the vehicle, the driver is advised to respect people on the road. This is a new practice that has been introduced into KSRTC. We have been training our drivers in driving in traffic jams, first aid, driving skills, etc. We have also been trying to solve the majority of crew problems to keep them at ease. Hopefully, we can see a greater decline in accidents as well."

KSRTC runs nearly 2,000 buses inside Bangalore city limits.

BMTC, which runs a larger share of buses within the city, said that they have been conducting training sessions to address problems. "Drivers are advised about traffic violations and behavioural conduct. The contrast with KSRTC must be seen against the number of schedules and buses being operated," said a BMTC official.

A transport expert said that the usage of bus lanes could drastically reduce traffic violations for public buses. "Increasing traffic congestion has made it difficult to meet schedule deadlines. BMTC has an ITMS vendor now and the data can be used to study and revise realistic schedules. It could also help them estimate the number of buses and crew needed. There is also a need to redesign roadside bus stops and focus on the stoppage of these buses. Currently, buses picking up passengers from these roadside bus stops cause a lot of traffic issues. Additionally, the usage of bus lanes could be effective in reducing traffic violations and ensuring on-time buses. Bus lanes limit interaction with other vehicles and reduce the chances of traffic violations. Prioritising more bus lanes in arterial roads could help in solving these issues," said Aloke Mukherjee from WRI India.

Forest watchers to get paid 'in a week'

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Central Govt is yet to release the fund under Project Tiger

The frontline staff in tiger reserves across Karnataka, who have not received their salaries for months altogether, are likely to get them over the next few days. According to RK Singh, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF), Karnataka Forest Department, the anti-poaching watchers (APWs) will get their compensation due within a week from now.

This was discussed at a high-level meeting of forest department officials organised on Monday afternoon to solve the issue after multiple media reports of disgruntled frontline staff in Biligiri Ranganathaswamy Temple (BRT) Tiger Reserve surfaced.

"I got to know about the issue only last week. The government of India is yet to release the fund under Project Tiger due to some issues and that has been the reason behind this delay. Having said that, it does not justify the lag in the payment of salaries to forest watchers. We are looking at the reasons behind this delay. Although we are expecting funds from the Centre any moment, pending that, we will do the needful," said Singh.

The department officials in the meeting also brainstormed mechanisms to be put in place to ensure that the foot soldiers get their salaries without delays from here on.

"We have discussed the issues leading to the delay in the release of compensation and also brainstormed a mechanism to be put in place, so such a thing is not repeated in the future. We want to ensure that the frontline staff gets their salaries every month without any delay," he added.

A workable solution has to be found. The department acknowledges the role that forest watchers have been playing in securing the forest area and it is as important as any other role in the department, he informed.

According to Sharath Babu, a wildlife activist who has been raising the issue of non-payment of salaries to frontline staff on time, the role that frontline staff plays in safeguarding the forests and wildlife is of paramount importance. However, the untimely release of salaries and low compensation has kept them demotivated, affecting the quality of work.

"The fact that the frontline staff across various tiger reserves are not willing to report on duty during the forest fire season is worrisome. However, it is not the first time that the department has not paid the APWs on time. To add to that, they are grossly underpaid as well. Even a security guard employed in a government school gets compensated better," he said.

"The department is currently paying Rs 11,000 to the APWs for encountering animals such as bears, leopards, etc, and risking their lives. Such low compensation impacts the quality of work they do. Apart from increasing their monthly salaries and paying them on time, the department must also have health insurance for the foot soldiers," he explained.

No ray of hope for tractor owners

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It seems the future of thousands of people dependent on tractors, engaged to clear debris and silt from roadside drains is bleak. Though the tractors are allowed to enter the city till March end, there is no guarantee of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) engaging tractors to clear debris and silt from April onwards.

"As of now, we are very happy to allow us to continue clearing debris and silt from roadside drains till March end. We are not sure whether we will continue working in Bengaluru or go home after March end," said Narasimha T, a tractor owner who provides employment for around 10 people.

A few days ago, people depended on tractors for their livelihood staged a protest in Bengaluru against the ban on entry of tractors into the city.

"We want to thank the traffic police for allowing tractors to enter the city. We suffered a lot for 10 days to make ends meet due to the ban on entry of tractors into the city," said another tractor owner.

Lifting ban on the entry of tractors temporarily gave the much-needed relief to the BBMP, which depends on tractors to remove debris and silt. The BBMP has engaged one tractor to each of the ward by allocating Rs 15 lakh per ward. Around 200 tractors are engaged to clear debris and silt from roadside drains in the city.

"The recent ban on entry of tractors has affected us. I could not clear debris that was dumped on footpaths at night by some irresponsible and illiterate people engaged by building contractors," said a BBMP engineer.

According to sources, the BBMP authorities are contemplating to engage mini trucks for the same work from April 1 onwards.

A decision was taken to engage mini trucks in place of tractors, to remove debris and silt from April 1 onwards. The BBMP has to float tender, inviting bidders for supplying mini trucks and manpower to clear debris and silt at 243 wards in the city. All these years, the BBMP used to spent Rs 2,97,00,000 and it has to spend Rs 3,64,50,000 as the number of wards in the city has been increased to 243 wards from 198 wards, said BBMP Chief Commissioner.

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'Will postpone Delhi mayoral election'
The office of the Delhi Lieutenant Governor on Monday told the Supreme Court that it would postpone the February 16 mayoral election to a date after February 17

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Adani-Hindenburg row

Centre wants to give names of experts in sealed cover

Central govt okay with SC proposal of setting up panel of experts

Members of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) detained by police during a protest after the Hindenburg report on Adani row came out, in Bengaluru on Sunday

#NEW DELHI

The Centre has no objection to a proposal for setting up a panel of domain experts to look into strengthening the regulatory mechanisms for the stock market, the Supreme Court was told on Monday while it was hearing pleas relating to the Adani stocks rout after the Hindenburg report.

The central government, however, told a bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud that it wanted to give the names of the domain experts for the committee and the scope of its mandate in a sealed cover in larger interest.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre and SEBI, said that the market regulator and other statutory bodies are equipped to deal with the present situation arising out of the Hindenburg report.

"The government has no objection to forming a committee. But, the remit of the committee, we can suggest. We can provide names in a sealed cover," the law officer said. Mehta apprehended that any "unintentional" message on setting up of the panel may have some adverse impact on the inflow of money. The court has listed two PILs, alleging exploitation of innocent investors and "artificial crashing" of the Adani Group's stock value, for hearing on Friday. On February 10, the top court said the interests of Indian investors need to be protected against market volatility in the backdrop of the Adani stocks rout and asked the Centre to consider setting up a panel of domain experts headed by a former judge to look into strengthening the regulatory mechanisms.

It had also sought the views of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and the Centre as to how to ensure a robust mechanism is in place since the capital movement now is "seamless" in the country.

-PTI

SEBI will update Fin Min on probe

#MUMBAI

India's market regulator will update the finance ministry this week on its investigation into the Adani Group's withdrawn $2.5 billion follow-on public issue, two sources familiar with the matter said on Monday.

The board of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is scheduled to meet Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Feb. 15, the sources said, speaking on condition of anonymity as they are not allowed to speak to the media. The SEBI board will brief the minister on surveillance measures taken by the regulator during the recent rout in Adani group stocks, the sources added.

The Indian conglomerate's listed entities have lost more than $100 billion in market value since a scathing report by a U.S. short seller in late January. The rout also led the group's flagship Adani Enterprises Ltd to pull its share sale. An update on investigations into offshore fund flows into Adani Group entities is also likely, the sources added.

The logo of the Adani Group is seen on the Corporate House on the outskirts of Ahmedabad (file photo)

SEBI did not respond immediately to a Reuters email for comment. Reuters had first reported that the market regulator is conducting a full-scale examination of the group's stock market rout, including examining trade patterns, irregularities in the aborted share sale and the conglomerate's offshore funds.

The regulator had undertaken a series of surveillance actions to ensure that the volatility in the Adani group companies' share prices was contained.

This will be a part of the brief to the finance minister on Wednesday, the sources said.

-Reuters

Retail inflation rises to 3-month high of 6.52%

#NEW DELHI

After showing a downward trend in December 2022, when it had slid to 5.72 per cent, retail inflation for January 2023 rose to a three-month high of 6.52 per cent, owing to higher food prices.

Food inflation in January 2023 rose to 5.94 per cent from 4.19 per cent in December 2022.

With this, the consumer price index (CPI) based retail inflation has again gone beyond RBI's tolerance level of 6 per cent.

The retail inflation for January 2023 is even higher than 6.01 per cent level of January 2022.

Higher prices of cereals, egg and meat as well as fish, milk and fruits along with clothing, footwear, housing, health and transport in January 2023, resulted in higher retail inflation. **-IANS**

Furore after Dalit student's suicide at IIT-B

#MUMBAI

A day after the alleged suicide of 18-year-old Dalit student Darshan Solanki of IIT-Bombay, the Ambedkar Periyar Phule Study Circle (APPSC-IITB) on Monday pointed fingers at the institution for lapses vis-a-vis pupils hailing from non-urban areas and belonging to SC/ST categories.

Solanki, in BTech First Year Chemical Engineering course, jumped to death from the 7th floor of the hostel building in the IIT-Bombay's Powai Campus on Sunday afternoon, after completing his first semester exams a day earlier.

In a detailed statement on social media on campus suicides, the APPSC-IIT Bombay termed it as "an institutional issue", as students from non-urban, non-English speaking backgrounds, oppressed castes (SC/ST) and low-income families "face immense harassment and discrimination" on the campus from students, faculties and employees.

Engineering student jumped to his death from hostel in Powai campus

"These institutional and casual ways of casteism cause mental and psychological stress on students, but IITs lack any mechanism to help them. We have been raising the issue of the lack of mental health support for our studentsa with the IIT administration as well as other forums like National Commission for SC/STs," said the group. It had raised questions on how the counselors at IIT-B are not sensitised to understand the social realities of caste that affect students from SC/ST/OBC communities, and lack of SC/ST counsellors in the Student Wellness Centre (SWC).**-IANS**

LTTE leader Prabhakaran alive, claims Nedumaran

#TANJORE (TAMIL NADU)

Tamil Nationalist Movement leader Pazha Nedumaran on Monday claimed that leader of outlawed Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) Velupillai Prabhakaran was "healthy and fine" and will soon "announce a plan for the liberation of the Tamil race."

Addressing a press conference in Thanjavur, Nedumaran said that the changing global situation and Sri Lanka's political crisis including the removal of the Rajapaksa government, breathed a new lease of life to the LTTE Chief encouraging him to step outside.

Nedumaran, who is the Tamil President of World Tamil Federation Pazha Nedumaran said it was time to lay to rest "rumours" about the death of the 'Thamizh Desiya Thalaivar'(Tamil Nationalist leader) Prabhakharan.

"Let me inform you that he (Prabhakaran) is soon going to announce a plan for the liberation of the Tamil race. All the Tamil people of the world should support him together," Nedumaran said.

"I would like to reveal some truths about LTTE Chief Velupillai Prabhakaran. I am happy to reveal a truth which would dispel doubts about Prabhakaran. We will like to tell all the Tamil people that LTTE Chief Velupillai Prabhakaran is healthy and fine," Nedumaran said.

WORLD

Tamil Eelam is a proposed independent state that many Tamils in Sri Lanka and the Sri Lankan Tamil diaspora aspire to create in the north and east of Sri Lanka.

Pointing out that China is expanding its influence in Sri Lanka through investment schemes and projecting India as an enemy of Sri Lanka, he exhorted the Indian government to initiate necessary steps to prevent China from firming up its presence in the island nation.

Nedumaran recalled when the LTTE was strong, they never allowed any country which was opposed to India to set foot in Sri Lanka.

"LTTE has fought against that. In any situation, the LTTE never sought any help from the countries which were against India. China has set its foot in Sri Lanka and is trying to project India as Sri Lanka's enemy," Pazha Nedumaran noted. **-ANI**

A mural of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) chief Vellupillai Prabhakaran in Chennai (file photo)

HEALTH TIP: Cranberries can improve your memory and lower bad cholesterol

Drinking half a glass of beetroot juice a day could help burn fat and so treat diabetes, scientists believe

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GIFT OF LOVE

How Valentine's Day gifts have changed over the centuries

For Valentine's Day, some couples only roll their eyes at each other in mutual cynicism. The capitalisation of love in the modern world can certainly seem banal.

But Valentine's Day gifts are hardly a contemporary invention. People have been celebrating the day and gifting love tokens for hundreds of years.

We should first turn to Geoffrey Chaucer, the 14th-century poet, civil servant and keen European traveller. Chaucer's poem from the 1380s, The Parliament of Fowls, is held to be the first reference to February 14 as a day about love.

This day was already a feast day of several mysterious early Roman martyred Saint Valentines, but Chaucer described it as a day for people to choose their lovers. He knew that was easier said than done.

The narrator of the poem is unsuccessful in love, despairing that life is short compared with how long it takes to learn to love well. He falls asleep and dreams of a garden in which all the different birds of the world have gathered.

Nature explains to the assembled flocks that, like every year on St Valentine's Day, they have come to pick their partners in accordance with her rules. But this process causes confusion and debate: the birds can't agree what it means to follow her rules because they all value different things in their partners.

Legal and emotional significance

Like today, in Chaucer's time gift-giving could be highly ritualised and symbolise intention and commitment. In Old and Middle English, a "wed" was any sort of token pledged to guarantee a promise. It was not until the 13th century that a "wedding" came to mean a nuptial ceremony.

The same period saw marriage transform into a Christianised and unbreakable commitment (a sacrament of the Church). New conventions of love developed in songs, stories and other types of art.

These conventions influenced broader cultural ideas of emotion: love letters were written, grand acts of service were celebrated, and tokens of love were given.

Rings, brooches, girdles (belts), gloves, gauntlets (sleeves), kerchiefs or other personalised textiles, combs, mirrors, purses, boxes, vessels and pictures – and even fish – are just some examples of romantic gifts recorded from the late middle ages.

In stories, gifts could be imbued with magical powers. In the 13th century, in a history of the world, Rudolf von Ems recorded how Moses, when obliged to return home and leave his first wife Tharbis, an Ethiopian princess, had two rings made.

The one he gave her would cause Tharbis to forget him. He always wore its pair which kept her memory forever fresh in his mind.

Outside of stories, gifts could have legal significance: wedding rings, important from the 13th century, could prove that a marriage had occurred by evidencing the intention and consent of the giver and recipient.

The art of loving

Like Chaucer, 20th-century German psychologist Erich Fromm thought people could learn the art of loving. Fromm thought love was an act of giving not just material things, but one's joy, interest, understanding, knowledge, humour and sadness.

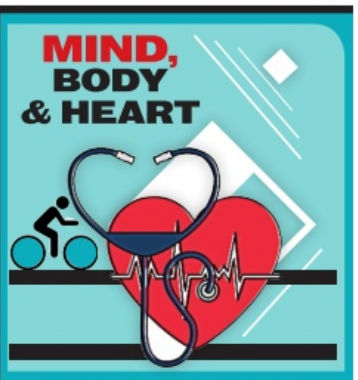
While these gifts might take some time and practice, there are more straightforward ideas from history. Manufactured cards have dominated since the industrial revolution, taking their place alongside other now traditional presents such as flowers, jewellery, intimate apparel and consumables (now more often chocolates than fish). All can be personalised for that intimate touch.

There have, of course, been weirder examples of love gifts, such as Angelina Jolie and Billy Bob Thornton exchanging necklaces with silver pendants smeared with each other's blood.

Artist Dora Maar was so upset when her notoriously bad lover Pablo Picasso complained about having to trade a painting for a ruby ring she immediately threw the ring in the Seine. Picasso soon replaced it with another, this one featuring Maar's portrait.

A good love token can long outlast the feelings that prompt its giving: a flower pressed in a book, a trinket at the bottom of a box, a fading heartfelt card or a bittersweet song that jolts you back to an earlier time. In this way, the meaning of gifts can change as they become reminders that all things pass.

(By Clare Davidson, Australian Catholic University, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Nasal Polyps

What is it?
These are swellings of the nasal lining inside the nasal passages and sinuses. They're a pearly colour and can look like as big as a grape when fully grown.

What are the symptoms?
Blocked nose, which can make it difficult to breathe through your nose, runny nose, mucus that drips from the back of your nose down your throat, reduced sense of smell or taste, feeling of fullness or pressure in the face, snoring.

When to see your GP?
The symptoms of nasal polyps can be very similar to a cold, but nasal polyps won't get better unless they are treated. See your GP if you have nasal symptoms that last a month or more.

What causes nasal polyps?
They are thought to develop as a result of inflammation of the lining of the nasal passages and sinuses. The lining tends to become increasingly swollen before it then starts to hang down.

What's the treatment?
Corticosteroid nose drops or nasal sprays to shrink the polyps, corticosteroid tablets to shrink any larger or more troublesome polyps quickly, and surgery to remove larger polyps using tiny surgical instruments which are inserted up your nostrils.
As polyps can grow back after treatment, including after surgery, you will usually be advised to continue using the corticosteroid nasal sprays to help stop them returning quickly.

—Dr Miriam Stoppard, Daily Mirror

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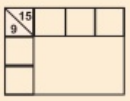
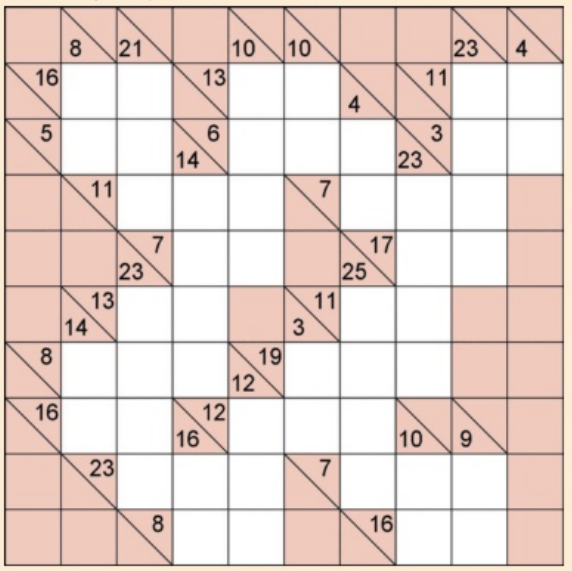
Kakuro

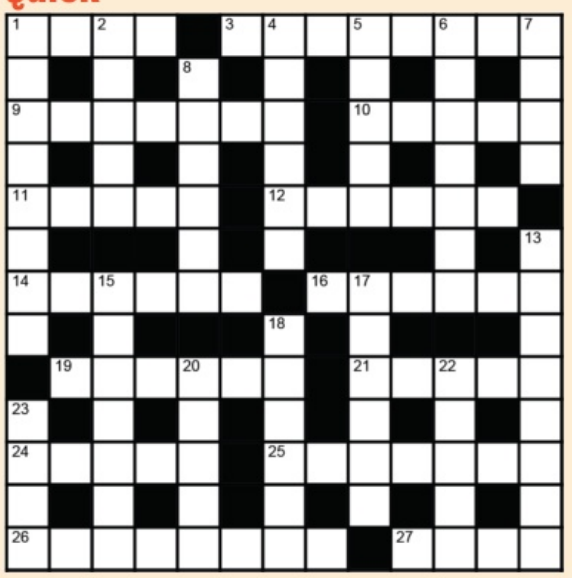
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Against the ____: against the run of the things, in a way? (4)
3 Lawbreaker (8)
9 Yield (7)
10 Extent or limit (5)
11 Takes a lazy attitude? (5)
12 Allegiance (6)
14 Struck light blows (6)
16 Dazed state (6)
19 A small refrigerator? (3-3)
21 Ran quickly (5)
24 Holiday spot in Karnataka (5)
25 Single eye-glass (7)
26 Great crime (8)
27 Contradict (4)

DOWN

1 No longer current (8)
2 Concerning a Duke (5)
4 Drive back (6)
5 Singer Callas (5)
6 Continuous or ceaseless (7)
7 Legal right (4)
8 Go after (6)
13 Tedious work (8)
15 Small flute (7)
17 Albanian capital (6)
18 Free from liability (6)
20 Nawab's wife? (5)
22 Phase, circle (5)
23 Pimply condition of adolescence (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: E EQUALS G

DYUNS KLPNXAN, UVDU HVLAV AGRNK XNDSNKU UG NCBSNK-KLXE UVN LXNCBSNKKLQPN LK RWKLA

Linemaro

Could you please step away from the bar? You're melting all the ice!

Mindchow

Sanity calms, but madness is more interesting

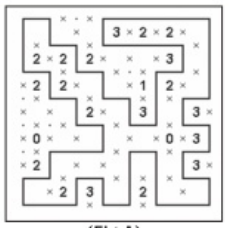
Joke of the day

Common sense is like a deodorant, the people who need it most rarely have it

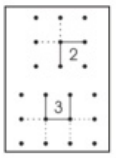
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

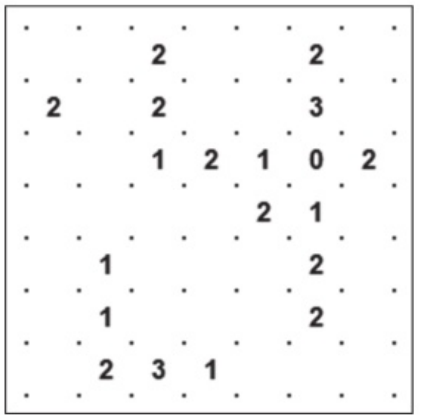


(Fig B) Not Allowed

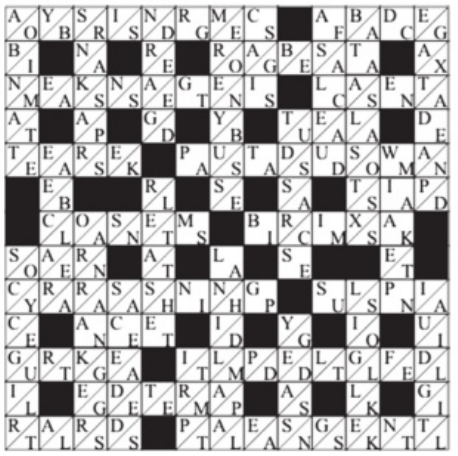
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



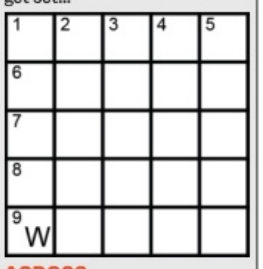
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

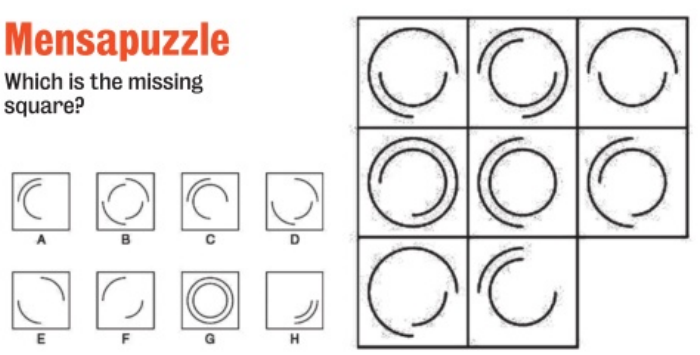
1 Taros; 6 Me EEC; 7 Siren; 8 Tange; 9 Sawed

DOWN

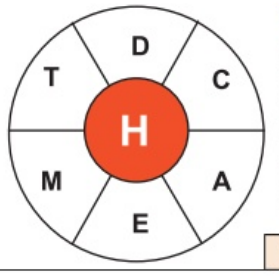
1 Wears; 2 O Mage; 3 Arced; 4 Seen I; 5 Stent

Mensapuzzle

Which is the missing square?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

14 Average; **16** Good; **18** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	7		5	2			6	
3								8
		8		9	1	4		
		1						6
4		9				8		1
2						9		
		3	8	5		6		
9								7
	8			6	7		4	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 17

5 5 8 9

Medium = 20

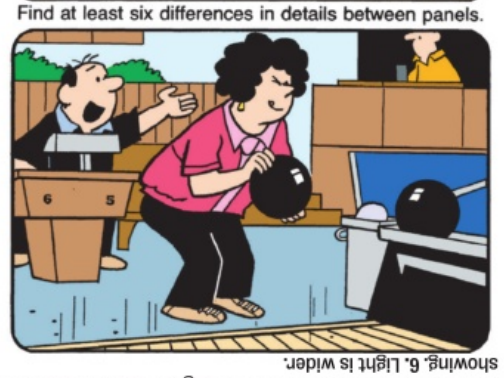
2 4 5 9

Hard = 3

2 7 7 5

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



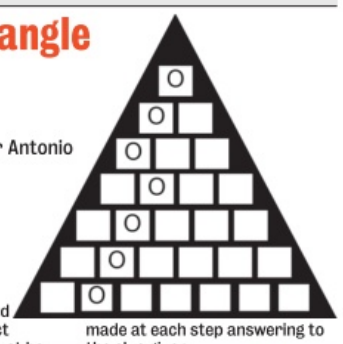
Differences: 1. Numbers are reversed. 2. Towel is missing. 3. Collar is different. 4. Ball is missing. 5. Back of chair is not showing. 6. Light is wider.

Riddler

What is broken, every time it's spoken ?

Alpha triangle

1 Circular letter
2 Not off
3 Only's partner
4 Observe
5 Football manager Antonio
6 Trumpet's kin
7 Change



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft

SANTA CLAUS REPORTING FOR DUTY!
YOU'RE LOOKING GOOD, SANTA!
THANKS... I FEEL GOOD THAT I STILL HAD TO USE A PILLOW.
12-5
BATUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts

LET'S GO CAROLING, MOOCH. DO YOU KNOW ANY CHRISTMAS SONGS?
YESH.
♫ LITTLE PINK SOCK LITTLE PINK SOCK
♫ FA-LA-LA-LA-LA LA-LA-LA LA! ♫
mutts.com

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today your moon is not positive, you may have health issues. You may face losses in the business or in past investment. It is advised not to invest into business. Your gains will convert into losses. So, you are advised to stop making investments in worthless objects. You should avoid being involved in controversies, otherwise it will pull you down negatively.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today is good for your work, you may be able to perform well in terms of work. Your boss is likely to give you some new responsibility in terms of promotions. Disputes with the partner may be settled down. You may lend money for making your assets. Your kids' health may be better now. You are likely to make some investments for kids' futures.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you may be blessed by the moon. Love would be in the air in terms of personal life. Singles may find suitable matches. You may do better in terms of professional life. Your friends and subordinate staff may support you. Investments in gems and jewellery are likely to give positive gains in the near future. You should be careful for elder's health.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
You may be happy due to the blessing from an auspicious planetary combination. You may have some sort of energy, which may create your prestige among people around you. You may spend your time studying intellectual stuff.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today at the start of the day it may be dull. After late evening, you may control negativity. New people may connect you in the work front. With the help of new people, you may try to revamp your business plans. It is advised to read documents before putting your signature.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today with the help of blessings, you may control your indecisiveness. Kids' health is better now. Your colleagues may be supportive in your work, which will convert into success in terms of project. You may expect to get some incentives with the salary. Natives related to dairy, water projects, grains, home maker art and culture may do good.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you may plan to migrate from your current place to another place. It is advised to think twice before taking decisions regarding migration or change of place. You may also plan to change jobs. There will be peace in the mind. But your kids' health might make you upset. Love birds shall keep patience before taking an important decision in terms of marriage.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you may have good patience. Meditation may help you to increase concentration, which may help to speed up your project. Your subordinates may cooperate with you; it may help you to complete the project before the timeline. You are likely to go on some short travels, related to work. An influential person may help you to boost your network.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you may be busy with family get together and social events, you may become polite with the people around you, which may increase your prestige among them. You may spend money buying some artifacts or household stuff, which may improve your social status. You are likely to hear some good news from one of your relatives.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you will be busy with family get together; you may re-establish your network, which will give you benefits in near future. Natives related to glamour, art, fashions, films, media may plan to do something new in terms of their profession. Students may perform better today in terms of study. Love birds may enjoy their happy moments.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you may be busy on the work front, which may make you mentally tired and affect your day today routine. You may be able to create some overseas networks. You should be careful in terms of investments. Natives in the job may get a promotion.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today's situation is under control now. Your destiny is likely to be with you in terms of gains in the past investments. You may get some rewards for your hard work. Projects, which were stopped without any reason, are likely to be reinitiated. You may expect peaceful religious travel. You may also plan to donate some amount to any religious place or to some charity.

KIDZONE

Ayra Khatija, 9 years, Zenith Academy School

Shravya, 13 years, Kaladweepa School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

BULL'S EYE
ache, ached, chat, cheat, death, detach, each, itch, heat, mach, match, MATCHED, math, hate, hated, head, teach, them

SOLVE IN 1M
{(9)⁻¹÷7(27)⁻¹/7}/(81)⁻⁵/28
=[(3²)⁻¹/7÷(3³)⁻¹/7]/(3⁴)⁻⁵/28
=3⁻(2/7+3/7-5/7)
=3⁻⁰ = 1

QUOTE UNCODE
After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music

FAST FIVE

R	O	A	S	T
E	M	C	E	E
S	E	R	I	N
A	G	E	N	T
W	A	D	E	S

STRIKE OUT

A	B	R	I	D	G	E	S		F	A	C	E
	I		A		E		R	A	B	A	T		X
	L		E	D	E	M	A		A		L		I
	U	R	G	E		I	M	P	E	L	L	E	D
	C	O	N	E		E		I		Y		I	U
C	R	A	S	H	I	N	G		U	L	N	A
O	E	R		T		A		S			E
L	O	S	E	S		B	R	I	S	K
	B		L		S		A		S	A	D
T	A	S	K		P	U	T	S		D	O	W	N
A		P		D		B		T	E	L		E
M	E	S	S	A	G	E	S		C	A	N	T
	T		A		E		R	A	B	A	T		X
	I		A		E		R	A	B	A	T		X

QUICK

E	N	O	R	M	I	T	Y		D	E	N	Y
N		L		U		P		A		L		R
C	O	O	R	G		M	O	N	O	C	L	E
A		C		E		E		A		Y		G
	I	C	E	B	O	X		R	A	C	E	D
	L		I		E			I		E		U
T	A	P	P	E	D		S	T	U	P	O	R
E		U		F		O				Y		D
L	O	L	S		F	E	A	L	T	Y		
O	A	R		U		I		S		N		
S	U	C	C	U	M	B		R	A	N	G	E
B	U		P		E		A		O		I	
O	D	D	S		C	R	I	M	I	N	A	L

MENSA PUZZLE
F: In each horizontal and vertical row of squares, the third square is determined by the contents of the first two squares. Lines are carried forward only when they appear in the same position in the first two squares.

RIDDLER Silence

SUDOKU

1	7	4	5	2	8	3	6	9
3	9	5	7	4	6	2	1	8
6	2	8	3	9	1	4	7	5
8	5	1	4	3	9	7	2	6
4	3	9	6	7	2	8	5	1
2	6	7	1	8	5	9	3	4
7	1	3	8	5	4	6	9	2
9	4	6	2	1	3	5	8	7
5	8	2	9	6	7	1	4	3

ALPHA TRIANGLE
0, On, One, Note, Conte, Cornet, Convert.

GO FIGURE
Easy
9 + 8 – 5 + 5 = 17
Medium
5 + 9 – 4 x 2 = 20
Hard
5 – 2 x 7 / 7 = 3

LOOP

KAKURO

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Allu Arjun onboard Jawan? Shah Rukh Khan has been busy shooting for Atlee helmed 'Jawan'. It looks like the makers have offered Allu Arjun a pivotal cameo in the film and that narration happened over the weekend, reports peepingmoon

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STAR-STUDDED RECEPTION

When stars descended to wish celeb couple

Film personalities Ajay Devgn, Kajol, Alia Bhatt, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Karan Johar, Varun Dhawan, and Ranveer Singh attended the reception of the newly-wed star couple Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani on Sunday night here.

Malhotra and Advani tied the knot in an intimate ceremony at the Suryagarh Palace in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan on February 7. Post the wedding, a reception for family and close friends was held on February 9 in New Delhi, Malhotra's hometown.

Several friends and industry colleagues including entrepreneur Akash Ambani and wife Shloka, producer-interior designer Gauri Khan, actors Kriti Sanon, Abhishek Bachchan, Neetu Kapoor, Vicky Kaushal, Shilpa Shetty, Bhumi Pednekar, Disha Patani, Aditya Roy Kapur, Anupam Kher, Ishaan Khatter, and filmmaker Ayan Mukerji turned up for the reception of the "Shershaah" co-stars at St Regis Hotel in south Mumbai. For the event, Advani wore a black-and-white gown with a stellar emerald-diamond layered necklace, while Malhotra opted for a black suit and a shimmery jacket.

Actor Vidya Balan and producer Siddharth Roy Kapur, Vivek Oberoi with wife Priyanka, Shahid Kapoor's wife Mira Kapoor, actor Rakul Preet Singh with partner and producer Jackky Bhagnani, Dhawan with wife Natasha Dalal were some of the star couples that attended the function.— **PTI**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Thrill of chaos

Doctor-cum-director G Venkatesh Prasad is keeping movie buffs guessing about his maiden film Chaos. It is said many of the cast of this movie were curious when the director told them about the title of this movie. Actor-cum-politician Shashikumar was one among them.

"I was confused when Venkatesh Prasad told me about the title of this movie. I told him that it would be difficult for a common man to understand the meaning but the director told me he would ensure that the title becomes popular," said Shashikumar.

He said he was part of the shooting for one day. "I play a guest in this movie," he said, adding that he wanted to wish good luck to the cast and wcrew of the movie.

The trailer of Chaos was released by Shashikumar and he also danced to the tune of the song - Navile Pancharangi Navile – from Yajamana in which Shashikumar plays the younger brother of Vishnuvardhan. Shashikumar's son Akshith and Aditi Prabhudeva play the lead roles in Chaos. The movie is said to be about a medical campus where a chain of events surrounding the hero and others are chaotic. Chaos is among the first movies in which a father (Shashikumar) and son (Aksith) share screen space.

Challenge accented

Kaashima also known as Kaashima Rafi considers herself lucky to play the female lead in the forthcoming Kannada movie South Indian Hero. Kaashima's bold performance in this film has already earned her fans in North Karnataka. Kashima plays a teacher from North Karnataka.

"Director Naresh Kumar arranged a premier show for fans at select places in North Karnataka. Many who watched the film asked me if I am from North Karnataka because of my dialogues that are laced with diction from the region," says Kashima with a smile.

It is said that the initial plan was to engage a dubbing artist to dub for Kaashima's character but the director insisted Kaashima do dubbing on her own. "I followed the director's advice and succeeded in dubbing the dialogues," says Kaashima.

Kaashima thanks her parents for encouraging her.

She reveals that Radhika Pandit is not only her favourite heroine but also a role model and among the heroes, Sudeep is her favourite. "I am eager to meet Sudeep sir," she says.